



## News From Congresswoman Hilda L. Solis 32<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District of California

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### **SOLIS TO OFFER REFINERY AMENDMENT TO PROTECT LOW- INCOME COMMUNITIES**

**WASHINGTON, D.C.-**Today, Congresswoman Hilda L. Solis (CA-32), Ranking Member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Environment and Hazardous Materials, will offer an amendment to strike all of Title III, Subtitle D, the Refinery Revitalization Act of the Energy Policy Act of 2005. This is the same amendment she offered during House Energy and Commerce committee consideration.

“Today’s vote on this amendment will show America whether Republicans care more about protecting public health and states’ rights or the wishes of the oil and gas special interests. I am offering this amendment because low-income and minority communities should be protected from unnecessary risks. The last thing these communities need is to worry about their families’ health,” said Congresswoman Solis.

The Refinery Revitalization Act allows the Secretary of Energy to control the procedures for obtaining State and Federal environmental permits for refineries and the timelines for reviewing and granting permit applications. The Secretary of Energy also could override a decision of the Environmental Protection Agency or State officials denying a permit. This power preempts the authority of State officials who are charged with protecting public health.

More than 70 percent of Latinos live in counties with dirty air. Latino children have asthma at more than two-and-one half times that of non-Latino white children and death rates from asthma among African Americans are 2.5 times higher than for non-African-Americans.

The Refinery Revitalization Act is opposed by the Environmental Council of the States, National Conference of State Legislatures, League of United Latin American Citizens, the National Hispanic Environmental Council, the State and Territorial Air Pollution Program Administrators, the Association of Local Pollution Control Officials, the South Coast Air Quality Management District in California and many other organizations.

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